

The Lansdale Memo

The date of this new Pentagon document is March 16, '62 and was found by Larry Haapanen.

Here is the document: page [\(1\)](#) [\(2\)](#) [\(3\)](#) [\(4\)](#) (page 3 begins the Castro discussion)

To put things in perspective:

In Early Mar, 61 - Project name ZR/RIFLE first appears in files, although the first recorded approval is dated Feb 19 '62. It's purpose is to develop killers for political assassinations. [Obviously, this is what Lansdale is referring to.]

Then later,

Jan 19, 62 - A meeting of the SGA is held in Robert Kennedy's office. Notes taken by CIA representative George McManus contain the following passages: "Conclusion Overthrow of Castro is Possible...a solution to the Cuban problem today carried top priority in U.S. Government]. No time, money, effort--or manpower is to be spared. Yesterday...the president indicated to [Robert Kennedy] that the final chapter had not been written--it's got to be done and will be done." McManus attributes the phrase "top priority in the U.S. government--no time, money...to be spared" to Attorney General Kennedy. (Alleged Assassination Plots Involving Foreign Leaders, 11/20/75, p. 141)

Feb 19, 62 - QJWIN/ ZRRIFLE: Helms succeeds Bissell as CIA dep. director of Plans. Helms writes memo to Harvey authorizing him to retain the services of "Principal Agent QJWIN" (Jose Mankel, drug smuggler and mercenary from Germany, per Gus Russo) "for the services of ZRRIFLE." "Harvey would later tell the inspector general that the code name QJWIN designated a capability to recruit professional assassins, separate from ZRRIFLE, but that he came to use the terms interchangeably."

[We know these operatives existed. Now we have Lansdale talking openly in front of JFK and RFK about using them on Castro at Hemmingway's Cuban home.

Lansdale is a go-getter who presents a comprehensive plan in early '62 that was reduced in Feb of that year. The SGA approves Operation Mongoose in Mar. '62.

A few days later, Mar. 23, Hoover sends the Balletti-Maheu wiretip memo to Sheffield Edwards and the CIA-Mafia cat is out of the bag. Previously we've had this sequence of events leading to RFK officially knowing about these plots:]

Apr 24, '62 - The Justice Dept rules on Balletti, agreeing with the CIA no prosecution. "This would not necessarily affect prosecution of Giancana for any other offenses." (Memorandum to the attorney general from Herbert J. Miller, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal division, Subject: Arthur J. Ballentti Wiretap Case, 24, April 1962, National Archives)

Apr 26, '62 - Special Group briefing on Ballentti wiretap case and CIA-Mafia plots. (Central Intelligence Agency, DCI Files: Job 91-00741R, Box 1, Mongoose Papers. Prepared by McCone. The memorandum apparently records a meeting of the Special Group (Augmented); Foreign Relations Of The United States

May 7, '62 - RFK briefed on Past CIA-Mafia Plots.

[Now, according to this newly found memo, before all this, on Mar. 16, '62, RFK -- and the president -- is sitting there calmly listening to Lansdale go on about how the CIA has a staff of assassins and they should use them. I haven't seen this document. I've requested it from author Larry Leamer, who told me about it today and I'll dig through the files I have here and see if I overlooked it. *IF* RFK already knew about QJ/WIN then his comment about the CIA using the Mafia is what is new to him -- not assassination plots.

The Hemmingway "plan" was never pursued.]

Sincerely,

Debra

See **The Old Man and the CIA: A Kennedy Plot to Kill Castro?**
by **David Corn & Gus Russo**

<http://www.thenation.com/doc.mhtml?i=20010326&s=corn>

NOTE: Larry Haapanen, the finder of the document responded to me regarding my comments in the original email.

"The Lansdale memo refers to "invaluable assets" that might be used in the event that the Finca Vigia scheme showed promise. I suspect that these "invaluable assets" were agents already on the ground in Cuba rather than characters like QJ/WIN who would have to be introduced from the outside. Keep in mind that according to Claudia Furiati's book "ZR Rifle: The Plot to Kill Kennedy and Castro" Ocean Press: 1994), the CIA poison pill plot was still alive in Havana in the Spring of 1962 (Furiati, pp. 47-48). Based on my other reading, I think that the number of such agents must have been small at that time, but there were a few."